

# The Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2005

### Opening

A meeting of the Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee was held on this date.

#### **Present:**

Blanchard, Richard  
Bowers, Mike  
Gaskill, Jim (Chair)  
Randy Larsen  
Mitchell, Dean (DWR Upland Game Program Coordinator)  
Perkins, Ernie (acting secretary)  
Proctor, Travis  
Robinson, Aaron  
Sanslow, Terry  
Staley, John

### Old Business

#### **Upland Game Master Plan**

Dean Mitchell asked the committee to update the plan, which is now over 8 years old. Dean is particularly interested in a review of priorities for habitat funds uses. A copy of the current plan is attached to these minutes. The committee will begin reviewing the plan at the next meeting. A copy of Utah Code that specifies allowed uses of Upland Habitat Funds is also attached.

#### **Waterfowl Habitat Stamp Proposal**

Ernie Perkins advised that some waterfowlers are considering pursuing a new waterfowl habitat stamp. He is encouraged by recent decisions on uses of upland habitat monies and recommends the committee wait before pursuing an upland habitat stamp.

#### **2005 Northern Region Guzzler Projects**

Materials are on hand for four new guzzlers. Final (archaeological) clearances and approvals on all proposed sitings (except BLM) are anticipated this week. Utah Chukar Foundation has just been contacted to see if their guzzler maintenance crew is available for installations, in addition to some maintenance work on two guzzlers damaged by floods.

#### **Habitat Council Project Approvals**

Ernie Perkins advised that all of the priority Upland habitat projects identified by the committee at the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved by the Habitat Council. Further, monies expended on WMA maintenance were well reduced from the requests. The Division is going to look at substantial funding for WMAs from other sources during their June budget meetings. As of the Habitat Council meeting, several thousand dollars of Upland funds remained for future priority projects.

#### **Walk-in Access Report**

The draft Rule will go to the RACs during the next round of meetings (July 19 - 27), and then to the Wildlife Board. The Rule should be available for distribution at the next meeting. Committee members and upland enthusiasts are encouraged to attend the RACs and speak regarding the rule. The schedule of the RAC meetings can be found at: [http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/public\\_meetings/pdf/05\\_rac\\_schedule.pdf](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/pdf/05_rac_schedule.pdf)

## **New Business**

### **Chukar Trapping on Antelope Island**

Discussion on possible trapping is happening between DWR/UCF/guzzler study principals. At this point, some trapping may happen this year if it is part of the guzzler study.

### **Sage Grouse & Sharp-tailed Grouse Permits**

Permit #s were approved by the Wildlife Board last week. In general, the Sharp-tailed permits went down slightly from 348 last year to 330 this year. Sage Grouse permits also went down very slightly from 1450 to 1436.

### **Minimum Age for Small Game Licenses**

A discussion ensued on eliminating the minimum age (12) to hold a small game license. Utah's minimum age is very restrictive compared to most states. Safety is not a problem (compared to many other accepted youth activities) as indicated by nation-wide experience. The waterfowlers are supportive of eliminating the age requirement (but requiring Hunter Ed as a pre-requisite). This will have to go to the legislature to enact. The committee unanimously endorsed eliminating the minimum age requirement.

### **Deseret Land and Livestock Sage Grouse / Sagebrush Treatments Study**

The study will evaluate Sage Grouse brood rearing selection of Lawson Aerator treated (rehabilitated) sagebrush versus untreated sagebrush areas. The study will begin June 18<sup>th</sup> and end August 6<sup>th</sup>. A minimum of 12 volunteers will be needed on four Saturdays. This study will provide very valuable information applicable to statewide Sagebrush steppe & watershed restoration efforts.

### **RAC Nomination – Southeast Region**

The committee voted to nominate Verd M. Byrnes for a second 4 year term on the Southeastern RAC.

### **DWR Wildlife Section Reorganization**

Dean Mitchell advised that (effective July 1<sup>st</sup>) the Waterfowl section will become the Migratory Game Bird section, & will assume responsibility for Dove and Band-tailed Pigeons in addition to the present ducks, geese and cranes.

### **Habitat Project Partnerships**

Dean Mitchell also advised that DWR and NWTF have agreed to jointly hire a biologist to pursue riparian habitat projects using Federal Farm Bill monies. These efforts should preclude the agencies from returning funds unused because insufficient Utah projects were identified. It is a great model the other conservation organizations should pursue. The funds are there – we need manpower to identify and develop the projects.

## **Upland Game on the Internet**

You can get more Utah upland game information at <http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame/> including the past minutes for this committee, news, proclamations, and information about upcoming public meetings.

## **Agenda for Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. at the DWR State Office at 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month unless otherwise agreed upon.

The agenda will include work on revising the Upland Game Master Plan, and planning for the Youth Chukar Hunt.

Everyone is invited to attend these meetings; it's an opportunity to get any issues you know about onto the table.

Let us know of donations, projects, etc., made by your group – we want to publicize good activities!

If you know of other interested parties who should get copies of the minutes, and who are involved in upland game organizations or programs, please get us their name. If you want to make an e-mail input, please send it to:

Dean Mitchell [deanmitchell@utah.gov](mailto:deanmitchell@utah.gov)  
Jim Gaskill [jhgaskill@weber.edu](mailto:jhgaskill@weber.edu)

Ryan Sorensen

[ryan@mybirddog.com](mailto:ryan@mybirddog.com)

Respectfully submitted ...  
Ernie Perkins

# MASTER PLAN FOR EMPHASIS WITHIN THE UTAH UPLAND GAME PROGRAM

- **TOP PRIORITY:** IMPROVE STATEWIDE HUNTING OPPORTUNITY BY DEVELOPING EXISTING, UNDERUTILIZED, VIABLE HABITAT – BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES TO SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE LOCAL UPLAND GAME POPULATIONS
  - **BIRD TRANSPLANTS:**
    - RELOCATE WILD BIRDS (E.G. PHEASANTS TRAPPED IN DEVELOPED CITIES, CHUKAR IN NATIONAL OR STATE PARKS)
    - PURCHASE WILD BIRDS FROM OUT OF STATE TO ESTABLISH POPULATIONS
    - RE-OPEN THE SPRINGVILLE GAME FARM -- USE THESE BIRDS FOR AUGMENTING AND (RE) ESTABLISHING POPULATIONS, AS WELL AS YOUTH PROGRAM SUPPORT
    - RESTOCK AREAS THAT PREVIOUSLY HAD GOOD POPULATIONS OF BIRDS
  - **GUZZLERS:** ESTABLISH AN AGGRESSIVE PROGRAM THAT WILL PLACE DOZENS OF GUZZLERS PER YEAR IN APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS IN THE STATE. INSTALL MULTIPLE GUZZLERS IN ONE AREA & THEN MOVE TO THE NEXT. CRITERIA FOR SELECTING LOCATIONS SHOULD BE:
    - PUBLIC ACCESS
    - QUALITY OF HABITAT
    - ENHANCING EXISTING SMALL POPULATIONS OF BIRDS
    - IMPROVING SOME AREAS THAT PREVIOUSLY HAD GOOD BIRD POPULATIONS
- **DEVELOP AND IMPROVE HABITAT :**
  - EMPHASIS ON WMA'S, WFMA'S, ETC.
  - EMPHASIS ON PUBLIC LAND, AND ON PRIVATE LAND WHERE PUBLIC ACCESS IS ASSURED
  - CONTINUE SMART - SMALL - LAND PURCHASES WHERE THEY MAKE SENSE
  - ENCOURAGE "ROADSIDE" HABITAT PROGRAMS IN REGIONS & COUNTIES
- **LAND OWNER RELATIONS AND HABITAT EDUCATION:**
  - PROMOTE AND EDUCATE
    - GOOD FARMING AND RANCHING PRACTICES THAT SUPPORT UPLAND POPULATIONS
    - INVESTIGATE OTHER STATE PROGRAMS THAT MAY WORK IN UTAH
  - ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF (SEPARATE ) STATE FUNDED HABITAT PROGRAMS ON PRIVATE LANDS
    - SEPARATE FROM THE CURRENT HABITAT STAMP FUNDING
    - COMPLIMENTARY OR SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE FEDERAL CRP PROGRAM
    - PRIMARILY "GOOD WILL", BUT SOME COMPENSATION FOR HABITAT, ACCESS, ETC.

(CONTINUED)

## OTHER PRIORITIES:

- **EDUCATE HUNTERS ON (NON PHEASANT) UPLAND HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES:**
  - DEVELOP OTHER UPLAND GAME HUNTING INTERESTS AS PHEASANT HABITAT IS INEVITABLY LOST TO DEVELOPMENT
  - USE VIDEOS, BOOKLETS, TV PROGRAMS, ADVANCED HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- **INVESTIGATE NEW SPECIES AND SUB-SPECIES:** LOOK FOR THOSE THAT ARE MORE ADAPTABLE TO OUR UTAH ENVIRONMENT:
  - INQUIRIES OF THE SURROUNDING AND ADJOINING STATES LOOKING FOR SUCCESSES
  - RESEARCH THE OLD PLANS AND INTRODUCTIONS - LOOK FOR OMISSIONS
  - CHECK OUT CHUKAR AND HUNGARIAN SUB-SPECIES – LOOK FOR VARIETIES ADAPTED TO DRY CLIMATE AND HARD WINTERS
  - SCALED QUAIL FOR THE SOUTHERN EDGES OF THE STATE
  
- **REVIEW, SUPPORT & IMPROVE THE PROCESSES THAT FUND, ALLOCATE & SPEND UPLAND GAME FUNDS IN THE STATE:**
  - SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE IMPROVED DWR FUNDING AND MANNING
  - GET UTAH A PROGRAM THAT COMPARES TO THOSE IN ADJOINING STATES
  
- **DWR REGIONS TO WORK WITH LOCAL UPLAND GROUPS AND CLUBS:**
  - ESTABLISH REGIONAL PRIORITIES & PLANS THAT SUPPORT THIS PLAN AND LOCAL NEEDS, INTERESTS AND CONDITIONS
  - INCREASE HUNTING OPPORTUNITY, HABITAT, INTEREST AND SUPPORT
  
- **RE-SET A 30 DAY PHEASANT SEASON ON SELECTED WMAS AND WFMAS:**

## **CAVEATS:**

- THE INTENT OF THIS “MASTER PLAN FOR EMPHASIS” IS TO CREATE FOCUS WITHIN THE UPLAND PROGRAM. THERE ARE MANY DOZENS OF OTHER IMPORTANT AND ON-GOING EFFORTS WHICH ARE NOT ADDRESSED IN THIS DOCUMENT, BUT MUST CONTINUE
- THIS IS A LISTING OF HIGH PRIORITIES TO THE UPLAND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INTENT THAT THESE MUST BE DONE IN A SEQUENCE ORDER, OR THAT THE RELATIVE PRIORITY MUST REMAIN CONSTANT IN EVERY REGION

23-19-43. Wildlife Habitat Account -- Contents -- Use of fund monies.

- (1) There is created a restricted account within the General Fund known as the Wildlife Habitat Account.
  - (2) The contents of the account shall consist of:
    - (a) revenue from the sale of licenses, permits, stamps, certificates of registration, and Wildlife Heritage certificates as provided in Section 23-19-47;
    - (b) money donated to the division for a purpose specified in Subsection (6); and
    - (c) interest and earnings on account monies.
  - (3) Revenue from the sale of licenses, permits, stamps, certificates of registration, and Wildlife Heritage certificates that is deposited to the account pursuant to Section 23-19-47 shall be used by the division, after appropriation by the Legislature, as provided in Subsections (4) through (6).
  - (4) (a) Each year up to \$70,000 or 4% of the annual deposits to the account, whichever amount is greater, shall be allocated for the development, restoration, and preservation of wetlands that are beneficial to waterfowl.  
(b) Up to 20% of the money allocated to waterfowl projects may be appropriated by the Legislature for use by a nonprofit conservation organization for wetland development projects within the state that benefit waterfowl.
  - (5) (a) Each year up to \$230,000 or 12% of the annual deposits to the account, whichever amount is greater, shall be allocated to upland game projects as follows:
    - (i) the control of predators;
    - (ii) the development, improvement, restoration, or maintenance of critical habitat through the establishment of landowner incentives, cooperative programs, or other means;
    - (iii) the acquisition or preservation of critical habitat;
    - (iv) landowner habitat education and assistance programs;
    - (v) public access to private lands; and
    - (vi) upland game transplant and reintroduction programs.  
(b) As used in this section "upland game" means pheasant, quail, chukar, partridge, sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, Hungarian partridge, ruffed grouse, blue grouse, ptarmigan, mourning dove, band-tailed pigeon, turkey, cottontail rabbit, or snowshoe hare.  
(c) Monies allocated to upland game may not be used for the acquisition, development, improvement, restoration, or maintenance of habitat within commercial hunting areas.  
(d) No more than 5% of the monies allocated to upland game may be used for landowner habitat education programs.  
(e) The monies allocated to upland game shall be used for programs and activities relating to upland game species based generally upon the proportion of average annual hunter participation for each species.  
(f) Projects for which free public access is assured shall receive first priority for funding from monies allocated to upland game.  
(g) Projects for which public access is assured shall receive second priority for funding from monies allocated to upland game.
  - (6) The remaining money in the account shall be used for the following purposes:
    - (a) the enhancement, acquisition, preservation, protection, and management of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat; and
    - (b) to improve access for fishing and hunting.
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(7) The division shall seek the advice and recommendations of the Habitat Council, created by the division, regarding the expenditure of account monies.

- (8) Donations of money deposited into the account and interest earned on that money shall be expended:
  - (a) as directed by the donor; and
  - (b) without being appropriated by the Legislature.

Amended by Chapter 195, 2000 General Session

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